

# Tired of being Conned?

**Fed up with controversies, manipulation, and lies?**

## **The Conservatives vowed to “clean up” politics.**

Instead, **Harper’s party played dirty**. It gained power in 2006 after **illegally funnelling money**. It signed trade deals raising the cost of prescription drugs and allowed Big Tel to gouge cell-phone users. The Cons **didn’t even try to save Canadian-owned Tim Hortons!** They blew millions of *our* tax dollars on self-promoting ads; they invaded our privacy/eroded our rights/kept an Enemies List just like Richard Nixon and launched a secret police force in the name of “increased” security. There’s more:

## **The Cons transferred money to the rich and foreign interests. They:**

- lowered corporate taxes – an annual gift of **\$15 Billion to wealthy big businesses** now hoarding more than **\$630 Billion** and raising already-excessive CEO salaries.
- slashed Revenue Canada’s crime unit and the investigation into **\$170 Billion in illegal tax havens**; then they **fudged their own numbers** to create a balanced federal budget in 2015.
- provided **\$1.4 Billion in annual subsidies to profitable Big Oil**; handed aid money to mining companies, not the poor; planned to give as much as \$126 Billion to the mainly US defence industry for 65 flawed, single-bid, F-35 fighter jets – while **lying to taxpayers** about the cost.
- signed **secretive trade/investment agreements** with several countries – even China which spies on our government/industries for its own commercial/strategic interests. These deals **give foreign corporations the right to sue Canada** if they think *our* laws reduce *their* profits!

## **The Conservatives mismanaged the economy:**

Harper has overseen the **worst economic growth rate** since the Depression, generating a quarter of the national debt accumulated since 1867. Most new jobs are temporary/low-paid; 80 percent of the drop in the unemployment rate is because people have given up; household debt, often people surviving on credit, has hit record highs. Con tax cuts usually helped a privileged few. **86 individuals/families now have as much wealth as a combined 11 million of us.**

## **Crying poor, the Cons weakened services by:**

**cutting/pushing to privatize** federal pensions and Medicare; **reducing** Employment Insurance coverage/benefits, veterans’ centres/benefits/programmes, VIA Rail routes, the Coast Guard, emergency response centres, food inspectors, affordable housing, municipal infrastructure projects – even home mail delivery. There are now more than 1000 food banks. In the 1990s, Canada topped the annual UN Human Development Index; **we have fallen below 10th place.**

## **The Conservatives went back on their word:**

- They **promised “transparency and accountability”** but were **found in contempt of Parliament** for their secrecy. They shut down the House of Commons to avoid investigation/losing power, degraded Question Period, and cut debate on 400-page bills. They **muzzled their own MPs**, often **barred the public** from parliamentary-committee hearings,

and blocked access to government information. They claimed to support an “elected” Senate, but Harper appointed almost 60 privileged friends, even ignoring our Constitution regarding Senators’ place of residence.

- They promised “honesty and integrity” but their voter database was **implicated in the 2011 robocalls scandal**; a Con campaigner jailed. Their MPs have been investigated/Dean Del Mastro, Harper’s “ethics” man, convicted for election irregularities. The Prime Minister’s Office **tried to cover up** the Mike Duffy Senate scandal. **Micro-managing Harper didn’t know?** Harper’s former Chief of Staff Bruce Carson and Harper’s CSIS appointee Arthur Porter were **charged with serious crimes**. Dimitri Soudas, PMO Communications Director/later Conservative Party Executive-Director, and other **staff members left under suspicion**.

## **The Cons attacked our institutions, including:**

Elections Canada and our electoral system, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Statistics Canada, Public Archives, the unifying CBC, Parks Canada, our once-respected Public Service, the media, Supreme Court/other judges appointed to uphold the law, the Law Reform Commission, government watchdogs, including the Nuclear Safety Commissioner, labour rights, federal-provincial relations, our refugee system, and the Constitutional and treaty rights of First Nations

## **The Conservatives destroyed our international reputation:**

Their rhetoric/bullying tactics have **ruined our national credibility** and **made us a terror target**. Canada even lost its valuable seat on the UN Security Council. Harper claimed we are a nation of “warriors.” He wanted to send soldiers into Iraq in 2003 and got his way in 2014 will little success. He **almost eliminated Canada’s peacekeeping role, increased torture use**, and secretly expanded arms exports/relations with countries like Saudi Arabia where government-ordered beheadings are common.

## **The Conservatives damaged our environment:**

They promoted poorly regulated exploitation of *non-renewable* resources for corporate profit. They **cancelled the law protecting our lakes and rivers**– so companies can pollute our water while building pipelines to export oil, gas, jobs, and profits to the US and China. The Cons allowed the number of trains carrying crude oil past/through communities to increase 20 times as they **weakened safety measures – with deadly results**. Ignoring climate chaos, they cut home-retrofit funding, closed climate-research centres, muzzled/ignored/fired scientists, pulled out of the Kyoto Accord, sabotaged international climate negotiations, and **lied about their emission cuts**.

**YOU can help stop the Harper Conservatives  
on October 19!**

**Organize. Vote! Take new voters to the polls.  
It’s time to build an Honest, Fairer Canada!**

**Contact:**